

environmental proposal to bring our friends in the union movement onboard so that workers saw that their future—a bright future, a prosperous future—was with clean energy, that we weren't excluding them but including them.

That is why, unlike many proposals in the past, my Clean Cars for America proposal unites the environmental community, the labor movement, and major automakers. The Sierra Club, UAW, Ford, and GM are all supportive. Isn't that amazing? Isn't that great?

When you want to get something done in Washington, you need to build a broad and powerful coalition for support. That is what we did with Clean Cars for America. The Senate and the country should prioritize it this year.

ENDLESS FRONTIER ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, on the Endless Frontier Act, last night the Senate voted to move forward with the Endless Frontier Act with a vote of 86 to 11. It is likely that today the Senate will take another step to begin debate on the bill. It is my intention to have an open, bipartisan amendment process.

The Endless Frontier Act already includes more than 20 bipartisan amendments from the Commerce Committee, under the leadership of Senator CANTWELL and Ranking Member WICKER. I will expect we will consider several more here on the floor of the Senate.

Later today, I will file a substitute amendment that pulls together more bipartisan legislation from across Senate committees into our comprehensive bill that we are now calling the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act.

In addition to Chairwoman CANTWELL and Ranking Member WICKER, I want to thank Chairman MENENDEZ and Ranking Member RISCH of Foreign Relations; Chairman BROWN and Ranking Member TOOMEY of Banking; Chairman PETERS and Ranking Member PORTMAN of HSGAC; Chairwoman MURRAY and Ranking Member BURR of HELP; and Chairman DURBIN, Ranking Member GRASSLEY, and Senator KLOBUCHAR of Judiciary.

Finally, I want to thank the bipartisan group of Senators working on the CHIPS and 5G proposals throughout the process—not only Senators CANTWELL and WICKER but Senators WARNER, KELLY, CORNYN, COTTON, LEAHY, and STABENOW.

Restoring America's competitive edge should unite Senators from both sides of the aisle. The foundation of the past century of American prosperity has been our leadership in science, technology, and innovation. If we are going to win the next century, the United States needs to be the one discovering the next groundbreaking technology.

We had that opportunity, for instance, with tech, and we lead the world because of early investments by NSF and DARPA. We have the opportunity now to set our country on a

path to outinnovate, outproduce, and outcompete the world in emerging industries of the 21st century, with profound consequences for our economic and national security. If we don't lead in science and innovation, we will fall way behind. If we don't lead in science and innovation, millions of good-paying jobs that will be available to this generation and the next one will go poof—gone. We have no choice. We have no choice.

We have always led, and now we have fallen behind. Other countries are investing more than we are. They are not as good at it as we are. They are not as innovative as we are. But if they put in the dollars and we don't, woe is us. Woe is us.

So when you ask Americans why they are upset and they say: We are not sure about our future. We are not sure if our children will have better jobs than we will. We are not sure that our jobs will grow. This is the way to do it. This is the key. This unlocks our future to a bright, sunny America, the way we have always had, but we may have lost in the last few years, at least to some extent.

I am so glad that this legislation, which we worked so hard on, has bipartisan support. It is a place where we can unite America and say we will stay No. 1, and we are giving our country, our universities, our businesses, our workers tools to do it.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Next is the EEOC CRA. Today, the Senate will vote to overturn yet another terrible regulation approved during the final days of the Trump administration, a rule that actually makes it harder for victims of employment discrimination to get justice.

For decades, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, or EEOC, has protected employees against workplace discrimination. If a worker believes they were targeted by their employer because of their age, their sex, their religion, their disability, or any other unlawful basis—their race—the EEOC can conduct an investigation and begin a conciliation process.

Rather than force employees to sue in court, where well-heeled corporations can afford high-priced lawyers and the plaintiff almost has no chance of winning, conciliation gives the EEOC the power to fight on workers' behalf against discriminatory behavior and win some speedy and effective results.

So, of course, the Trump administration, in another example of their callousness, another example where they talk about working people but don't care about them and do things to help them, sort of nastily—almost viciously—changed the rules on conciliation at the EEOC to put a large thumb down on the scale in favor of corporations and against individuals who were

discriminated against or at least who allege discrimination, making it easier for corporations to slow down investigations and even retaliate against workers.

Today's vote will use the Congressional Review Act process to immediately repeal this rule change.

At every opportunity, the Trump administration seemingly relished in making life harder for working Americans, while stacking the deck in favor of unscrupulous corporations. Now that Donald Trump is President no more—thank God, I say—we have a chance to undo this terrible rule and give workers the confidence that the Federal Government is in their corner.

COVID-19 HATE CRIMES ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, on Asian hate crimes, I am delighted the House will pass the Anti-Asian hate crimes bill today, which passed the Senate last month with overwhelming bipartisan support. Once the legislation is approved by the House, it will go directly to the President's desk. I expect it will be signed into law later this week.

Discrimination against Asian Americans is, sadly, not a new phenomenon in our Nation's history, but the pandemic brought old biases and prejudices back to the foreground.

This legislation will strengthen law enforcement's ability to detect, deter, and prosecute hate crimes of all varieties, especially hate crimes involving Asian Americans. It sends a powerful message of solidarity to all our friends in the Asian American community. It is so important, so vital, so strong, and an important piece of the puzzle of how we build a better future in America.

I thank my colleagues from both Chambers, from Senators Hirono and Duckworth in the Senate to Representative MENG in the House and all those who improved the legislation through the amendment process here in the Senate.

Today, we are another step closer to making progress in the fight against racial discrimination and violence aimed at Asian Americans in recent months. The Senate can be proud it took the lead.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

STATE BUDGETS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, recent headlines have reinforced a warning that Republicans and economic experts have been articulating literally for months: The massive spending the Democrats insisted upon at the outset of the Biden administration was not in step with actual needs.

Yesterday, I talked about some of the ways the multitrillion-dollar spending spree rammed through in March has actually delayed our reopening and our recovery: about the disappointing fall-off in hiring, despite a historic number of open jobs, after the Democrats renewed a Federal program that pays people extra not to work. Well, here is another misplaced priority from that spending spree: our Democratic friends' insistence on stuffing another wheelbarrow of cash into the accounts of State and local governments that were already rebounding from the crisis.

Back in February, as the Democrats insisted States were in dire need of another huge bailout, 29 of the 50 States were actually closing a 12-month chapter in which their revenues met or exceeded the year before. Twenty-nine of the fifty States were actually closing a 12-month chapter in which their revenues met or exceeded the year before the pandemic.

The faster-than-expected economic recovery, combined with the five bipartisan bills Congress passed in 2020, left a lot of cities and States in even better shape in exiting the pandemic than they were heading into it. Rising tax revenues had put these States in a position not only to weather pandemic-related downturns but to fill in pre-existing budgetary potholes that actually had nothing to do with COVID hardships.

Of course, that didn't stop the Democrats from cramming nearly another \$200 billion in State bailouts into the American Rescue Plan. Impressively, California got its hands on \$26 billion of the \$200 billion. By the way, the State of California now claims it already has a budget surplus three times that size—three times that size of a budget surplus—and we are sending them another \$26 billion.

They are having to brainstorm new ideas to spend the unneeded avalanche of cash. I understand the State's Governor has come up with one idea he likes. He is planning to cut a timely round of State-level stimulus checks to include people who are in the country illegally—just in time for his recall election later this year. Is that the kind of urgent priority the Democrats had in mind when they used COVID to push through what they called the "most progressive" legislation in history?

Experts warned it was poorly targeted, and Republicans said American families deserved better, but the big catalog of political payouts was pushed right through. Let's remember exactly how this played out before we are doomed to repeat it again.

ENDLESS FRONTIER ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Now, Mr. President, on an entirely different matter, yesterday, the Senate took a step toward considering wide-ranging legislation that would touch on multiple parts of the U.S. economy in the name of increasing innovation and competitiveness.

A secure, productive, and innovative America that can outcompete China is something that all 100 Senators want. Of course, in a place like the Senate, you are guaranteed to find a wide variety of different ideas about the best ways to encourage that. A number of our colleagues have assembled a proposal that touches on a long list of subjects—everything from funding universities, to regional economic development, to Indo-Pacific geopolitics, to artificial intelligence, to cyber security, and beyond. Legislation this broad needs a thorough, robust, and bipartisan floor process, including a healthy series of amendment votes.

As one of my Republican colleagues—the ranking member on the Commerce Committee—explained, as he supported moving the legislation out of committee, the current draft is "not ready for prime time" yet and deserves a robust process here on the floor.

I understand this bill has come to the floor with a bipartisan understanding and the Democratic leader's assurances that there won't be an effort to close debate on amendments prematurely. So I look forward to the Senate's considering these important issues, and I hope all of this interest in our competition with China will lead our Democratic friends to rethink President Biden's intention to cut our defense spending after inflation. The single best thing we can do to stay competitive with China is to give our Armed Forces the resources they need to stay competitive with China.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, on one final matter, sometime soon, we also expect to vote on a Democratic resolution to overturn a rule put in place by the previous administration. Under Republican leadership, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission—an aggressive Washington regulator of the American job market—issued modified marching orders that increased transparency and decreased the odds of expensive lawsuits.

Several years back, one investigation found the EEOC had become very aggressive and was perpetrating a kind of legal harassment on job creators, often leaving American taxpayers on the hook for court cases which the Commission had actually lost. Taxpayers were paying to sue job creators and lose in court, so the Republicans updated their guidance. It was the first substantial update of the way the EEOC handles disputes and concilia-

tion since 1977. It said that the employer in question deserves a written summary of the facts behind a complaint, a written explanation of the legal justification, a few other details, and 14 days to respond. Sounds pretty reasonable. This helps ensure the Commission is making a good-faith effort to see if the dispute can be settled outside of court before beginning a costly, adversarial process.

Apparently, even these modest steps were too much for my friends on the Democratic side. They want to roll back this progress. A number of groups have asked them not to do this, from small business owners, to builders and contractors, to restaurant owners, to retailers, and beyond. These are the same employers who are already struggling to climb back out of this pandemic and rehire workers. They don't need any more Washington headwinds in their faces, and taxpayers don't need more of their dollars being funneled back toward trial lawyers. So I would urge Senators to vote against this resolution so the current, improved rule can actually be left in place.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING
BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

ENDLESS FRONTIER ACT—MOTION
TO PROCEED—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 1260, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 58, S. 1260, a bill to establish a new Directorate for Technology and Innovation in the National Science Foundation, to establish a regional technology hub program, to require a strategy and report on economic security, science, research, innovation, manufacturing, and job creation, to establish a critical supply chain resiliency program, and for other purposes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican whip.

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS APRIL JOBS
REPORT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, Ronald Reagan once said that the nine most terrifying words in the English language are "I'm from the government, and I'm here to help."